



Institute for African Studies  
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# Newsletter

## **Ceremonial meeting of the Academic Council of the Institute for African Studies dedicated to the Africa Day**

On May 24, 2017, the ceremonial meeting of the Academic Council of the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences was held, dedicated to the Africa Day celebration. The opening speech was made by the Director of the Institute, Irina O. Abramova. The participants of the solemn meeting were congratulated by the Honorary President of the Institute, Academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Alexey M. Vasiliev; by the adviser to the Department of Africa of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation M.B. Lyapustina; by H.E. Ambassador Extraordinary



and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Madagascar, Head of the Group of African Ambassadors to the Russian Federation Mr. Eloi Maxime Alphonse Dovo and H.E. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Sudan Mr. Nadir Yousif Eltayeb Babiker. The academic report "The Young Africa: Demographic Dividend as a Factor of Development, Influence and Strength" was presented by Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Dr.Sc (Econ.), Professor Leonid L. Fituni.

## **Participation of the Director of the Institute for African Studies RAS in the General meeting of the Coordination Committee for Economic Cooperation with Sub-Saharan Africa (AfroCom)**

On 7 April 2017, the Director of the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Dr.Sc (Econ.) Irina O. Abramova spoke at the General meeting of the [Coordination Committee for Economic Cooperation with Sub-Saharan Africa \(AfroCom\)](#). In the course of the meeting, the election of the Chairman of the Coordination Committee took place. By the decision of the



General Meeting, Pyotr M. Fradkov, General Director of JSC "Russian Export Center" was elected the Chairman of AfroCom. Director of the Institute for African Studies RAS Irina O. Abramova was elected the Vice-Chairman of AfroCom and appointed as Head of the Expert Council of AfroCom. The discussion was attended by the representatives of Russian ministries and departments, business community and the media. The General meeting of AfroCom decided to instruct the Executive Secretariat to formulate a list of promising economic cooperation projects with the countries of sub-Saharan Africa. [Read more](#)



### **Public lecture by H.E. Ambassador of the Republic of Rwanda, Dr. Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya**

On April 12, 2017, Her Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Rwanda Dr. Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya delivered the public lecture dedicated to the 23rd anniversary of the genocide in Rwanda at the Institute for African Studies RAS. Topic of the lecture was: "1994 Genocide against Tutsi in Rwanda: Resilience keeps us standing firm on our achievements". Representatives of the Russian Foreign Ministry, the diplomatic corps of African countries, the academic community attended the lecture.

On April 18, 2017 in the Center for Southern Africa Studies of the Institute, Ph.D. Student [Natalia A. Voronina](#) made a presentation entitled "Evolution of Protestant churches' role in the socio-political life of South Africa in the 20th - beginning of the 21st centuries".

### **Seminar-meeting of the young leaders of the BRICS countries**

On April 21, 2017, Deputy Chairman of the Council of young researchers of the Institute for African Studies RAS, Ph.D. (Econ.) Vasily A. Sidorov took part in the seminar-meeting of the young leaders of the BRICS countries held in the Government House of the Moscow region.

The visit to the Government House for the heads of delegations of young leaders of the BRICS countries began with a meeting with the Governor of the Moscow region Andrei Vorobyov. "I welcome all young entrepreneurs, active people who came to the Moscow region under the auspices of the BRICS work. I want to stress that our region is ready to cooperate, to develop business and cultural ties. Of course, we are interested in new projects, new ideas that young people are personally offering", said Andrei Vorobyev, welcoming the representatives of delegations. During the meeting, the issues of cooperation between the young businesspersons from the BRICS countries and the Moscow region in the spheres of economy, industry, culture, education, health, tourism, and agriculture were discussed.



### **Seminar "BRICS Bank: New Models for Financing Development and Changing International System"**

On April 25, 2017, the online seminar "BRICS Bank: New Models for Financing Development and Changing International System" was held between the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the [University of Stellenbosch](#) in South Africa (Center for Military Research). The main report is available [here](#).



### Meeting with senior representatives of the University of Namibia and the Embassy of Namibia in Russia

On April 21, 2017, the Deputy Director of the Institute for African studies in charge of research, Corresponding Member of the RAS, Prof. D. Bondarenko met with senior representatives of the University of Namibia and the Embassy of Namibia in Russia. The meeting was dedicated to the development of cooperation between the Institute and the University of Namibia as a continuing part of an earlier agreement.

### Celebrating the Victory Day at the Institute for African Studies

On May 3, 2017, the function was held in the conference hall of the Institute which was dedicated to the USSR victory in the Second World War. The function was opened and led by the Deputy Director of the Institute, Corresponding Member of the RAS, Dr. Sc. (Ec.), prof. L. Fituni. Brought their congratulations: Veteran of the Great Patriotic War, chairman of the Veterans' Council of the Institute, senior scientist P. Kupriyanov, participant of local wars, honorary president of the Institute, academician of the RAS A. Vasiliev, veteran of local wars, the head of the Centre for Southern African Studies A. Tokarev, reserved lieutenant colonel, veteran of peacekeeping operations D. Pirozhkov. Everybody listened to the honorary guest of the function the Guards Captain of the Russian Army V. Kiryanov with great excitement. In 2012, this officer accomplished a real feat: during the exercises, risking his life, he saved the lives of his subordinates, shielding them from the explosion of a military grenade. For the courage and bravery V. Kiryanov was awarded the state reward - "Order of Courage". At the end of the function were shown such documentaries as - "Sturm of Berlin" and "Allied Forces Parade on 7 September, 1945".



### St. Petersburg International Economic Forum

Director of the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Dr.Sc (Econ.) Irina O. Abramova made a report entitled: "Russia–Africa: A Structural Approach to Cooperation in the New Economic Reality" at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, which was held July 1-3, 2017. African nations are today playing an increasingly active role in international politics and the world economy. African continent is a highly promising market for Russian industry, and an important supplier of much-needed raw materials. The key question today is how to set up business partnerships between the Russian Federation and African countries; this would not be possible without substantial support from the Russian Government. What steps must be taken in order to give this bilateral economic partnership fresh impetus? [Read more](#)



## Round table "The Evolution of African Countries' Foreign Policies: New Trends in the Context of Growth of Africa's Influence in the World"

On May 16, 2017, the [Center for Studies of Russian-African Relations and African Foreign Policy](#) of African Countries of the Institute for African Studies RAS held a round table "The Evolution of African Countries' Foreign Policies: New Trends in the Context of Growth of Africa's Influence in the World". Employees of various centers of the Institute, postgraduate students from various educational institutions, representatives of Russian and foreign media, as well as various organizations took part in this academic event. After the round table, it is planned to publish a collection of works based on the presentations of the participants.



## Visit of the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Republic of Burundi Dr. E. BIZIMANA

On May 18, 2017, Dr. Edouard BIZIMANA, the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Republic of Burundi in Russia, visited the Institute. The Deputy Director, Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Dr. Sc. (Hist.), Prof. D. Bondarenko spoke with His Excellency about the cooperation. Following the results of the meeting, a project cooperation of the agreement was signed by the Institute and scientific centers.



## Field research in the first Old Believer communities of Africa

From 13 to 27 of June 2017 Social Anthropologists of the Institute for African Studies: corresponding member of the RAS, Dr. Sc.(Hist), prof. D. Bondarenko (project manager), junior research fellow A. Lapushkina, and the head of the Russian Orthodox Old Believers Church mission in Uganda Priest N. Bobkov worked in the Republic of Uganda (in the capital Kampala and Nakabaale, Kisodzho, Kapeka). This study was the first stage of the three-year scientific project "Orthodox Christians and Old Believers in Uganda: Socio-cultural Processes in African Christian Communities" (grant RFBR (Russian Foundation for Basic Research) 17-01-00148). The aim of the Project is to study the phenomenon of Ugandan Orthodox Christianity and Old Believers in its socio-cultural aspect. The duration - 2017-2019 (inclusive).The participants plan to give papers and publish academic and popular articles based on the evidence they collected in Uganda.



## Heading "Currently comment"

### Politics of E. Macron in the African direction: estimates and forecasts

During the electoral campaign in 2007, the contender for the presidency of France, Nicolas Sarkozy, promised to revise the African policy in Paris, especially, he promised to change the attitude to the abuses of some dictators. "France will not play the role of gendarme in Africa anymore," Sarkozy said in Cape Town in February 2008. After these promises bombing in Libya followed.

Francois Hollande also arrived at the Elysee Palace with ideas of nonintervention in African affairs. In October 2012, speaking in Dakar, he said that in future Paris would debate with African states on equal terms, and the practice of neocolonialism would be left in the past. "The times which were called "Fransafrique", have passed," he said. However, the crises in Mali and the CAR have made him to change his intentions completely. [Read more](#)

### New level in the relationship between the USA and Egypt

Just one month after the inauguration of Donald Trump on January 20, 2017, his administration took the first practical steps to change relations with Egypt radically, which were formed in the days of Barack Obama. That Middle East policy led to their deterioration with practically all states of the region.

The atmosphere of distrust between Washington and Cairo appeared from the beginning of the Arab spring in the country of the pharaohs on 25, 2011, when Americans, in fact, supported "brothers Muslims" who had unsuccessfully fought for power in Egypt before. This was sudden for the Hosni Mubarak who ruled for nearly 30 years, who established the closest ties with the United States. Surely, this was a shock and a serious lesson for the ruling elite in the country, which it probably will not forget soon. [Read more](#)

### The International cooperation

1. [Memorandum of Understanding on Co-Operation between the Libya Institute for Advanced Studies and the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences.](#)
2. [Memorandum of Understanding on Co-Operation between the Centre for Studies of Asia and Africa of the College of Mexico and the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences](#)

### Publications

1. The regular issue of the Journal "[Scientific notes of the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences](#)" No 1 (38) 2017.
2. Monograph by L. Sadovskaya "[Power and Opposition in the African Society in the end of XX and the beginning of the XXI centuries](#)" The book analyzes the problem of the relationship between the authorities and the opposition in West African countries using the example of Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire. The opposition political movements were drilled down, value orientations, economic and political views were reviewed. The work contains biographies of leading political and state figures of these countries, including those who are in opposition. The monograph may be useful for experts-Africanists, teachers, students and those who are interested in political systems, problems of political leadership, the relationship of ruling elites and the opposition.